

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
March 4, 2010

Present: Knox (chair), Ames, Coughlin, Roberts, Smith, Walton (staff), Tim DeVivo (guest)

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

The minutes of the January 7, 2010 meeting were accepted.

Flyers for the Municipal Climate Action Summit, on March 13, 2010, were distributed to committee members.

Tim DeVivo, from Willimantic Waste Paper, spoke to the committee about waste and recycling trends. He stated that single-stream recycling and automated collection service reduces costs for the collector. DeVivo went on to say that the composition of the recycling stream has changed to lighter plastic containers, fewer glass bottles, thinner and fewer newspapers and fewer pieces of junk mail. Walton reported that according to Jerry Powell, editor of *Resource Recycling* magazine, nationally recycling rates have remained flat over the past decade despite municipal increases in what can be collected for recycling. These factors may be contributing to the decline in Mansfield's recycling rates.

Walton reported that EO Smith High School started composting February 22, 2010. The Chronicle will be doing an article on the Green Teen's efforts. The Town is using WeRecycle as the electronics recycler for 2010. Mansfield is using a different vendor from the Mid-NEROC contract because the Town is assured of WeRecycle's business ethics. Walton will be picking up litter with UConn Community Outreach on March 21. Knox will be working with UConn students from the Learning Community class on March 27.

The committee discussed some possible changes that could be made to the single family collection after the current contract ends September 2010. It was decided to move the Friday service to a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday since the Town Hall closes at noon on Fridays. Other ideas included using pre-paid bags for collection service only, having Mayo approve cans sizes with a sticker, and eliminating mini service.

Walton reported on the Westport plastic bag ban. According to a Westport official, the new law was implemented seamlessly in March 2009. The Conservation officer has enforced a few complaints of violators since then. Knox will study the Westport ban further. Staff will send the Westport ordinance to members.

Goal setting was postponed until the next meeting, which is scheduled for May 6, 2010 in conference room B. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton
Recycling/Refuse Coordinator

Cc: Lon R. Hultgren, Director of Public Works, Members, file, Town Manager, Town Clerk